

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 COME-00 /066 W

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R 050616Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1288

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3650

FOL TEL FROM SONGKHLA DATED 3 MAR SENT ACTION BANGKOK REPEATED
FOR UR ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 029

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND EINV TH US

SUBJ: EX-PHANG NGA GOVERNOR ON TEMCO ISSUE

REF: SONGKHLA 039, DECEMBER 4, 1974

DURING REGIONAL MEETING OF LIONS CLUBS OF SOUTH THAILAND
AT HAAD YAI MARCH 1, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH CURRENT
GOVERNOR OF SURAT, ANAN SANGUANNAM, WHO TRANSFERRED THERE IN
OCTOBER 1974 FROM PHANG NGA. HE HAD FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON
CURRENT TEMCO CONTROVERSY:

1. ANAN FELT HE HAD TEMCO SITUATION RE ILLEGAL MINERS UNDER
CONTROL WHEN HE LEFT. MINERS WERE FEW, POLICED THEMSELVES AND
DID NOT CALL FOR OUTSIDE HELP.; TEMCO CASE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED
IN COURT AND SPARED SCARING FOREIGN COMPANIES AS WELL AS GIVING
IMPETUS TO BANGKOK AGITATORS TO TOUR PROVINCES. (ANAN CLAIMED
"OUTSIDERS" TURNED UP IN SURAT RECENTLY TO DEMAND ALL TRAINS BE
HALTED DUE ALLEGED SMUGGLING BY LOCAL OFFICIALS. SEARCH WAS
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CONDUCTED, NO SMUGGLING UNCOVERED, "OUTSIDE" DISAPPEAREE:

HOWEVER, POINT WAS MADE THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS WERE VULNERABLE TO UNANNOUNCED VISITS AND PERHAPS "PLANTED" XAD PUBLICITY).

2. ANAN CHARACTERIZED CURRENT PHANG NGA GOVERNOR, TAWAT MOKKA-RAPHONG, AS ARGUMENTATIVE CRUSADER, KNOWN AS HONEST MAN TO MOST OF HIS COLLEAGUES BUT WITH PENCHANT FOR SEEING INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE AND EAGER TO CHANGE THE WORLD. ANAN NOTED THAT SEVERAL PHANG NGA LIONS CLUB MEMBERS AT HAAD YAI FUNCTION, HAD COMPLAINED TO HIM THAT DR. TAWAT WAS SEEKING SOAK THE RICH AND HELP THE POOR. THESE COMPLAINERS (MERCHANTS, NO DOUBT) SAID DO-GOODISM WAS GOING TO DESTROY THE PROVINCE.

3. ANAN LABELLED THE MAN RECENTLY SHOT IN PHANG NGA AS A GANG LEADER WELL-KNOWN TO ALL IN THE AREA AND NOT THE "LABOR LEADER" MARTYRED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST EXPLOITATION AS THE PRESS LIKED TO PICTURE HIM. ANAN SAID THERE WERE FIVE TO SIX RIVAL GANGS OPERATING AMONG THE ILLEGAL MINERS. (THIS CORRESPONDS TO TEMCO ESTIMATE REFTEL). REMOVING THIS CONCESSION FROM TEMCO AND RTG HANDS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY AID THE PEOPLE BUT COULD LIKELY TURN THE AREA INTO A BATTLEFIELD AS HAS HAPPENED WITH THE RICH TUNGSTEN DEPOSITS IN NAKRON SI THAMMARAT (CLAIM-JUMPING, EXTORTION, HAND GRENADES IN MINERS' TENTS--THE USUAL VENDETTA LIFE IN THE SOUTH WHICH HAS KEPT THE TUNGSTEN DEPOSITS FROM BEING PROFITABLY EXPLOITED).

4. RE NEW GOVERNMENT, ANAN, SAW DEMOCRATS LOSING CONFIDENCE VOTE IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 6 AND FORESAW NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH EITHER KHUKRIT PRAMOTE OR CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN AS PRIME MINISTER. CASTRODALE UNQUOTE.
KINTNER

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